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BRL CW Memo 04 – 2006

April 3, 2006

TO: Child Placing Agency Directors

FROM: Jill D. Chase, Director
Bureau of Regulation and Licensing

RE: Ukraine Adoptions

The Bureau of Regulation and Licensing has received the attached letter regarding post-placement adoption reporting on children adopted from Ukraine. The Department of State, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs from Washington has requested that the Bureau of Regulation and Licensing notify all adoption agencies that complete adoptions in Ukraine of the importance of the post-placement reporting requirements. The Ukraine National Adoption Center (NCAC) has stopped accepting new applications from prospective adoptive parents from the United States because adoptive families from the United States were not complying with the post-placement reporting requirements.

If your agency has completed any Ukraine adoptions from 1996-2004, please follow up with your adoptive families to ensure that these families have met the necessary post-placement reporting requirements for Ukraine.

If you have any questions regarding these requirements, please contact Christopher Lamora, the Chief of our Intercountry Adoption Unit at, (202) 663-2928.

Attachment: Letter, Dept. of State, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs

cc: Licensing Specialists
Licensing Chiefs
Tammara Lemay
Karen Slaney
Lynn Lehr



DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONSULAR AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

February 13, 2006

Dear Ms. Morse:

I am writing in the hope that as the director of the Wisconsin agency with responsibility for the licensing of adoption service providers, you might be able to assist the U.S. Department of State with a public awareness and outreach campaign we are spearheading on the important issue of post-placement reporting on children whom U.S. citizens have adopted from Ukraine. Specifically, we are working to convince parents of approximately 900 Ukrainian adopted children to submit post-placement reports on their children to the Ukrainian government.

Over the past 10 years, Americans have adopted more than 5,700 children from Ukraine. Just in the U.S. Government's 2005 fiscal year, which ran from October 1, 2004, to September 30, 2005, American families were able to provide permanent homes to 821 Ukrainian children who otherwise would have remained in non-permanent arrangements, mostly in orphanages and other institutions. This placed Ukraine fifth worldwide in terms of the number of orphans who joined families in the United States.

Unfortunately, the continuing ability of American families to help even more Ukrainian children like these is in serious jeopardy. In late September, the director of the Ukrainian National Adoption Center (NAC) decided to stop accepting new applications from prospective adoptive parents from the United States and five other countries, on the grounds that too many previous adoptive parents from these countries had failed to comply with Ukraine's mandatory post-placement reporting requirements. In November, the NAC director eased the ban somewhat when she decided to begin accepting applications from prospective parents who wanted to adopt children over age 10, children whose biological siblings had previously been adopted by the same family, and children with identified special needs. Apart from these limited categories of children, however, the ban would remain in effect until parents from the six countries achieved a 100 percent compliance rate in submitting their delinquent post-placement reports. In December, Ukraine reinstated four of the six countries after their citizens achieved full compliance; today, only France and the United States remain under the ban.

Ms. Mary E. Morse
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